

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 3, 11 and 12. Please amend Claims 1, 4, 5 and 8. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently Amended) A method of synchronizing audible alarms and visual strobes in a building alarm system comprising:
connecting the audible alarms and visual strobes in the building to common power lines and applying power to the audible alarms and visual strobes through the common power lines, the visual strobes being powered to charge a capacitor in each visual strobe to a firing voltage without activating the visual strobe; and
after the audible alarms and visual strobes have been powered, repeatedly changing the voltage on the power lines to control timing of the audible alarms and visual strobes by providing a synchronization signal through the power lines to cause each visual strobe to discharge the capacitor through a flash lamp in each visual strobe such that the visual strobes flash in synchronization with each other.
2. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein a change in voltage which triggers the strobes ends an audible beep.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[3]] 1 further comprising controlling timing of the strobes to provide an encoded visual output.
5. (Currently Amended) A building alarm system comprising, in the building:
a pair of power lines;
at least one audible alarm powered by said power lines;

visual strobes powered by said power lines, the visual strobes comprising a capacitor in each visual strobe charged from the power lines to a firing voltage without activating the visual strobe; and

means for applying power to the audible alarm and visual strobes through said power lines and, after said power has been applied, repeatedly changing said voltage on the power lines to control timing of the audible alarm and the visual strobes, the change in voltage on the power lines causing each visual strobe to discharge the capacitor through a flash lamp in each visual strobe such that the visual strobes flash in synchronization with each other.

6. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the audible alarm is non-continuous and synchronized to the visual strobes.
7. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the means for changing voltage triggers the visual strobes and ends an audible beep.
8. (Currently Amended) A building alarm system comprising, in the building:
 - a pair of power lines;
 - at least one audible alarm powered by a voltage on said power lines, the audible alarm being controlled by a change in the voltage on the power lines after power is applied; and
 - visual strobes powered by said voltage on said power lines, the strobes being repeatedly triggered to synchronously flash with a change in the voltage on the power lines after power is applied, the visual strobes comprising a capacitor in each visual strobe charged from the power lines to a firing voltage without activating the visual strobe, the change in the voltage on the power lines causing each visual strobe to discharge the capacitor through a flash lamp in each visual strobe such that the visual strobes flash in synchronization with each other.
9. (Original) A system as claimed in Claim 8 wherein the audible alarm is noncontinuous and synchronized to the visual strobes.

10. (Original) A system as claimed in Claim 8 in which the change in voltage that triggers the strobes ends an audible beep.

11-12. (Canceled)